Cancer Council SA

Impact Report 2025-26







Our purpose

To reduce the rate and impact of cancer through best practice prevention, research and support.

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Cancer Council SA acknowledges and pays respect to the Kaurna people who are the Traditional Owners of the land on which our building stands and to all First Nations peoples who use our services from across Australia.

We believe the cultures and histories of First Nations peoples are significant to the past, present and future of South Australia and they should be acknowledged and celebrated. We thank the First Nations peoples for their custodianship of the land and pay respect to their continuous spiritual relationship and connection to the land. We are committed to our role in reconciliation and warmly welcome all First Nations peoples to our building and services.

A message from our Board Chair and Chief Executive

What a year of incredible outcomes for South Australians. As Cancer Council SA approaches a century of impact, we are proud to reflect on a year of meaningful progress in reducing cancer's impact on our community— progress made possible only through the trust, generosity and dedication of South Australians.

This year's success rests on years of sustained effort and the trust we've built with our community over decades: driving policy change through evidence-based advocacy, reducing cancer risk through our prevention programs, standing beside South Australians across every stage of a cancer diagnosis with our dedicated support services, and ensuring more people can survive cancer through groundbreaking research.

Nowhere is this more evident than in what we've achieved this year for country South Australians facing a cancer diagnosis. For these families, the cost of accommodation while receiving treatment in the city can be the difference between accessing life-saving treatment and care and putting it off.

We were thrilled to see the State Government announce a nation-leading increase to the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS) accommodation subsidy for regional South Australians who need to travel for treatment and specialist services—a direct result of many years of sustained advocacy from Cancer Council SA and our sector partners.

Affordable accommodation during treatment means so much when distance is already a barrier, and this expansion to PATS is truly life-changing for the people and services who rely on it.

It means we can continue to be there for country people long into the future with our Greenhill Lodge providing a comfortable and supportive place to stay while far from home.

And it means we can now kickstart plans for an exciting new accommodation facility in Adelaide's northern suburbs—one with the potential to support an additional 2,200 regional South Australians impacted by cancer every year, so that where someone lives doesn't determine the care they receive.

As part of this ongoing commitment to ensuring all South Australians can access cancer care when they need it most, Cancer Council SA has also continued to play a leading role in the development of Cancer Council's new national Cancer Navigation Service, Cancer Connect, designed to make it easier for anyone affected by cancer to get the right information and support when they need it. After two years of work across the Cancer Council Federation, we took the first step in June by launching the new Cancer Connect website, which brings the Federation's trusted information and support together in one centralised place for Australians facing cancer.

Prevention remains one of our strongest tools for reducing cancer. But real, lasting change takes more than a single campaign or program. The impact of this work is often measured over years, sometimes decades.

This year also delivered a landmark result from decades of work in tobacco control when it was announced that South Australia had recorded its lowest daily smoking rate ever at 7.5 per cent. It's fantastic to see smoking rates declining across the state, and we remain committed to preventing nicotine addiction in all its forms, including working with Cancer Councils across the country to tackle illicit tobacco.

Underpinning all this progress is cancer research. It's because of investment in research that remarkable advancements have been made in cancer prevention, screening, treatment and care, helping to increase cancer survival rates from 50 per cent in the late 1980s to 72 per cent today. That's why Cancer Council SA will continue to invest in the state's best researchers working every day to improve outcomes for generations to come.

Results like these don't happen overnight and they don't happen without the continued support of our amazing community, united by our shared purpose to reduce the rate and impact of cancer for South Australians.

Thank you to our government, service and sector partners, and our passionate community and corporate supporters, for your continued trust and generosity and for standing beside us, year after year.



The Hon. Karlene Maywald
Board Chair
Cancer Council SA



Kerry Rowlands
Chief Executive
Cancer Council SA

Impact of cancer

Almost
1 *in* 2
Australians will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85.

There are around
33
new cases of cancer diagnosed in South Australia *every day*.

That's more than
12,000
South Australians diagnosed with cancer *every year*.

Around
3,900
South Australians lose their life to cancer *every year*.

Your impact

South Australians facing a cancer diagnosis, and their loved ones, found expert guidance when they needed it most, with our qualified professionals making over 4,000 connections over the phone on 13 11 20 and delivering more than 58,000 minutes of trusted information and support.

Individuals and families were supported to cope with the emotional impact of cancer with expert support by their side delivered through almost 1,000 counselling sessions.

Our community was able to access trustworthy and evidence-based information about cancer prevention, treatment and support with more than 132,000 resources distributed across South Australia.

People travelling to the city for cancer treatment had a comfortable, supportive place to call their home away from home, with more than 34,200 nights of accommodation provided at our Greenhill Lodge.

Regional South Australians travelling for cancer treatment are eligible for a nation-leading accommodation subsidy of $110 per night for individuals from 1 July 2026—a significant enhancement in financial support successfully advocated for by Cancer Council SA and our sector partners.

Around 165,000 South Australian children and their educators were protected from the harmful effects of UV radiation by participating in the SunSmart Schools and Early Childhood Program.

Fewer South Australians are smoking than ever before, with daily smoking rates falling from 10.6 per cent in 2020 to 7.5 per cent in 2025—supported by decades of policy change driven by Cancer Council's advocacy and South Australians feeling more empowered to quit smoking through our programs and support.

11 of South Australia's best and brightest cancer researchers are accelerating progress across a range of cancer types, backed by more than $2.2 million in funding from Cancer Council SA in 2025-26.

Together, we're making a difference

Thanks to the continued generosity of South Australians, Cancer Council SA has been able to strengthen cancer prevention across our state, invest in world-class research and provide trusted support to those impacted by cancer when they needed it most.



AUGUST 2025

Daffodil Day

An amazing 200 volunteers came together to sell more than 10,000 bunches of daffodils across South Australia, raising $327,000 to fund vital cancer research.

NOVEMBER 2025

The Longest Day

More than 550 golfers took on the ultimate golfing challenge to complete 72 holes of golf in a single day throughout November, December and January, raising more than $290,000 for South Australians impacted by cancer.



JANUARY 2026

Nation-leading PATS announcement

We welcomed Premier Peter Malinauskas's pre-election commitment to almost triple the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS) accommodation subsidy, making South Australia the nation's leader when it comes to supporting accommodation and travel for country people undergoing treatment.

FEBRUARY 2026

Cancer Council SA Research Symposium

We conducted our second annual Cancer Council SA Research Symposium, highlighting the critical role of behavioural research. From strengthening prevention initiatives and improving screening participation, to enhancing treatment experiences and supporting survivorship, the research presented reflects a commitment to improving outcomes for all South Australians.



FEBRUARY 2026

Marilyn Jetty Swim heads poolside

More than 500 Marilyns took over Marion Outdoor Pool in the very first 'poolside edition' of this much-loved event, raising more than $309,000 for cancer prevention, research and support.

MARCH 2026

Marilyns take regional SA for the first time

Marilyn Monroe lookalikes took to the water in Naracoorte and the Riverland, marking the first time the Marilyn Jetty Swim has been held in regional South Australia.



MAY 2026

Regional footy clubs boost bowel screening awareness

In partnership with Preventive Health SA, we encouraged regional footy clubs to spread the word about bowel cancer screening in their communities, with clubs eligible to receive a grant as part of the new *Lift Your Game* initiative.

JUNE 2026

Funding boost for South Australian cancer research

Three leading Adelaide researchers have been awarded a total of $300,000 through the Cancer Council SA Research Program to advance research into liver cancer, childhood neuroblastoma and prostate cancer. These projects will deepen our understanding of these cancers and help pave the way for new and improved approaches to prevention, diagnosis and treatment.



NOVEMBER 2025

SunSmart parks partnership

City of Onkaparinga became the first Local Government in South Australia to install SunSmart pavement stickers across 20 local playgrounds, parks and community centres, to encourage families to protect their skin when spending time outside.

NOVEMBER 2025

Inaugural Impact Breakfast

We celebrated a year of life-changing achievements made possible by the South Australian community, gathering supporters, partners and volunteers for our inaugural Impact Breakfast.



JANUARY 2026

If You Could See UV campaign launch

We partnered with Preventive Health SA to launch *If You Could See UV*, a new campaign revealing the invisible threat of UV radiation and encouraging young South Australians to protect their skin.

FEBRUARY 2026

Investing in South Australia's next generation of cancer research leaders

Seven outstanding early and mid-career researchers shared in a $1.86 million investment through the 2026 Cancer Council SA Research Fellowship Program, supporting them to pursue innovative cancer research and build the next generation of research leadership in South Australia.



FEBRUARY 2026

Donations doubled for Cancer Council SA's Giving Day

Donations made on Cancer Council SA's Giving Day were doubled by generous matched-giving partners to help us raise more than $286,000 for South Australian families impacted by cancer.

MAY 2026

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

More than 1,600 South Australians gathered their friends, family and workmates to host an Australia's Biggest Morning Tea and raised over $1.4 million for cancer prevention, research and support.



JUNE 2026

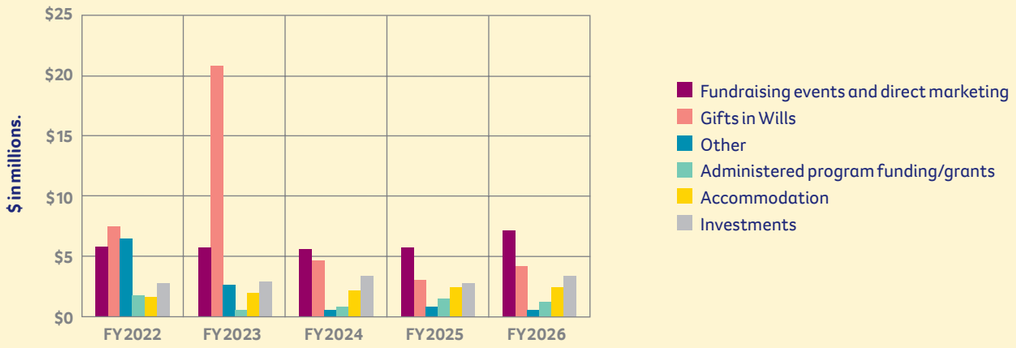
Creating SunSmart spaces for children

Eight South Australian schools and early childhood centres shared up to $250,000 through the Cancer Council SA and Preventive Health SA Shade Grants initiative, creating more shaded play spaces and helping protect children from harmful UV radiation while they learn and play outdoors.

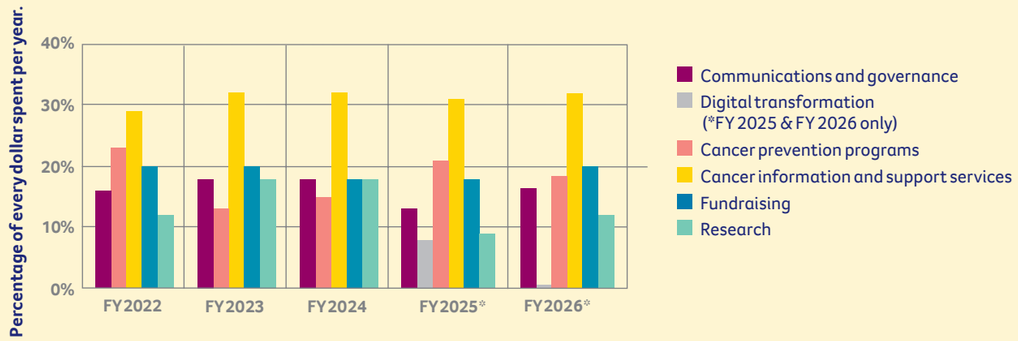
Putting your generosity to work

Thanks to kind support from the South Australian community in 2025-26, we were able to continue our vital work to reduce the rate and impact of cancer through our life-saving prevention programs, investing in groundbreaking research and delivering support services for all South Australians impacted by cancer.

Where the money comes from



How we put the money to work



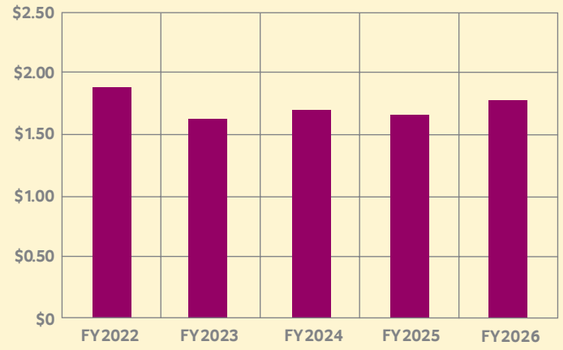
This year, our community gave **$6.9 million** for South Australians impacted by cancer.

This year, we invested **$12.2 million** into delivering programs and services that will reduce the rate and impact of cancer in our community.

This year, for every **$1** invested into fundraising, we raised **$1.77** to invest in prevention, research and support programs for South Australians impacted by cancer.

This year, Cancer Council SA was privileged to receive **$4.1 million** from generous South Australians who left a gift in their Will.

Dollars raised for every $1 invested in fundraising*



* excluding gifts in Wills



Reducing cancer risk and finding cancer early

Up to one in three cancers diagnosed are preventable. Cancer Council SA is committed to delivering a range of programs and campaigns to help South Australians reduce their cancer risk and improve outcomes through earlier detection. We also advocate for healthier environments to reduce the risk of cancer for South Australians.

Increasing awareness of the invisible threat posed by harmful UV radiation

Melanoma is one of the most common cancers among young Australians and while many people still associate sunburn and skin damage with heat, it's actually invisible ultraviolet (UV) radiation that causes the harm.

For the first time in South Australia, in partnership with Preventive Health SA, we launched the *If You Could See UV* campaign during the peak of summer. The campaign showed glass-like arrows falling from the sky to represent invisible UV, prompting the audience to be prepared and use sun protection to defend against this ever-present threat.

The campaign ran from January to March targeting young South Australians, achieving more than 17 million impressions across radio, cinema, broadcast TV on demand, social media and outdoor advertising.

> *"I got a call back from the GP while I was in a uni lecture, and they confirmed that it was melanoma. The doctor said if I hadn't picked it up when I did, it could have gotten a lot worse. I can't even count on my hands how many times I've been badly sunburnt. Growing up in the country, playing sport and spending a lot of time at the beach – I wasn't really educated on the effects of UV."*



ASHLI, MELANOMA SURVIVOR



Over **95%** of skin cancers are caused by exposure to UV radiation.

Two in three Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer in their lifetime.

Reducing barriers to screening for multicultural communities

People from multicultural backgrounds can experience many barriers to accessing and participating in potentially life-saving bowel, breast and cervical cancer screening tests.

With cancer screening rates in the Limestone Coast below the state average, Cancer Council SA partnered with Country SA PHN (Primary Health Network), BreastScreen SA, local health professionals and the Migrant Resource Centre to deliver targeted cancer screening information sessions in Mount Gambier. The initiative helped improve access to trusted, culturally appropriate information for multicultural communities, with resources provided in preferred languages to support informed participation in cancer screening.

As part of this project, we worked with BreastScreen SA to directly support 24 women to attend their first mammogram appointment. We also partnered with three local GP clinics in Mount Gambier to invite overdue patients to make an appointment for their cervical screening test, with more than 200 people now up to date with their cervical screening as a result.

> *"For many migrant and refugee women, these sessions are the first time they've been able to ask questions, understand their screening options, and make informed decisions about their health. When information is provided in language and in a safe environment, it empowers women to take control of their wellbeing and that has a lasting impact on families and communities."*

AMANDA LINDH, MANAGER AT THE MOUNT GAMBIER MIGRANT RESOURCE CENTRE

This year, we partnered with local GPs to support more than **200** Mount Gambier women and people with a cervix to do their cervical screening test.

This year, **62** multicultural community members in Mount Gambier attended cancer screening education sessions to access Cancer Council SA's screening information in their language.

Calling on regional footy clubs to boost bowel screening

If found early, more than 90 per cent of bowel cancer cases can be successfully treated. But often bowel cancer can have no symptoms in its early stages and that's why regular screening is so important.

More than half of South Australia's regional and rural areas have bowel cancer screening participation rates below the state average of 47.4 per cent for people aged 50–74.

That's why we launched *Lift Your Game*, an initiative inviting regional and rural football clubs to help spread the word about bowel cancer screening in their communities. Through our partnership with Preventive Health SA, participating clubs were also eligible for a $20,000 grant.

Twenty football clubs from across regional South Australia signed up to spread the word across social media, putting posters up around the community and a range of other creative ideas to encourage eligible locals to complete the life-saving bowel screening test.

Hatherleigh Football Club was awarded the *Lift Your Game* grant for spreading awareness about bowel cancer screening in their tight knit community.

> *"Bowel cancer screening isn't something people talk about all the time, so we wanted to bring it front of mind in a light-hearted way. We've got some cheeky posters up in the club and, specifically, in the toilets – behind toilet doors – to open that conversation up, to normalise it. If we have one player ask their dad or their mum or their neighbour if they have ordered their own kits or have done the test, then that's a win."*



EMILY HASSELL, TREASURER OF LADIES' COMMITTEE AT HATHERLEIGH FOOTBALL CLUB





This year, **20** regional and rural football clubs signed up to spread the word about bowel cancer screening in their communities as part of Cancer Council SA's *Lift Your Game* initiative.

This year, Cancer Council SA with support from Preventive Health SA awarded grants to **70** South Australian GPs to receive a fully funded dermatoscope, a specialised device, to help detect skin cancer early.

This year, Cancer Council SA provided cancer prevention education to more than **2,300** South Australians at **43** workplaces, community groups and events.

This year, Cancer Council SA's Tackling Tobacco Program delivered training and information to more than **440** community service organisations and allied health staff and students to help their clients quit smoking and vaping.

Protecting our next generation

"I think it's critically important that schools lead the way in terms of teaching the next generation and younger people to look after their skin.

In comparison to when I was at school, I feel that sun protection is more embedded into the everyday culture of schools. Those little reminders in the morning about knowing what the UV is for the day helps the child have a greater understanding of being safe during those critical times of recess and lunch.

I really recommend the process of becoming an accredited SunSmart school with Cancer Council SA. It gives you an opportunity to reflect on what you do in your school to provide the highest level of health and safety for your community."

ADAM SLATER, PRINCIPAL AT ST JOSEPH'S MEMORIAL SCHOOL, A SUNSMART SCHOOL FOR 27 YEARS

This year, the SunSmart Schools and Early Childhood Program protected around **165,000** South Australian children and their educators from harmful UV radiation.

More than **1,100** South Australian schools, OSHC services and early childhood centres are currently recognised as SunSmart.



Making SunSmart training more accessible for SA teachers

When school and early childhood leaders understand UV risks and how to protect their skin, they can model sun-safe habits for their students, helping to build good sun-safety practices in the next generation.

South Australia's Department for Education has partnered with Cancer Council SA to strengthen access to SunSmart training for its 38,000 staff.

38,000 Department for Education staff will now have access to UV and skin cancer training to help them protect their skin and model sun-safe habits to students.

Providing shade in schools

Children and young people depend on safe environments in school and early childhood settings, including having access to effective shade, to ensure they are protected from harmful UV exposure. Cancer Council SA partnered with Preventive Health SA to award up to $250,000 in total grant funding to schools and early childhood centres across South Australia, helping them create safer outdoor areas for children and students.

Eight schools and early childhood centres were successful in receiving grants: Hawker Childhood Services Centre, Karcultaby Area School, Lake Windemere B-6 School, Park Terrace Kindergarten (Port Lincoln), Penong Primary School, Peterborough Community Preschool, Willsden Childhood Services Centre (Port Augusta) and Willunga Preschool.

"This funding does more than build shade – it builds peace of mind for our families, knowing their children have access to high-quality sun protection while enjoying our inclusive outdoor spaces."

MICHELLE LENNOX-PAVLOVICH, PRINCIPAL AT LAKE WINDEMERE SCHOOL



Supporting families to build easy and healthy lunchboxes

Children consume around a third of their daily food intake at school, so a nutritious, easy-to-eat lunchbox is essential. We partnered with *KESAB environmental solutions* to develop a series of easy, affordable and nutritious lunch recipes that families can make at home with the kids. The new recipes are more affordable and nutritious than most store-bought packaged snacks, which are often low in fibre and high in fat, salt and sugar.

Restricting unhealthy food and drink ads on public transport

Reducing children's incidental exposure to unhealthy food and drink advertising empowers families to make healthier choices and helps give South Australian kids the best start they can in life.

A 2022 Cancer Council SA study found that almost 80 per cent of food and drink ads on buses and bus shelters near South Australian schools marketed unhealthy food and drink. From 1 July 2025, South Australia became the first state in the nation to restrict unhealthy food and drink advertising on public buses, trains and trams as a result of Cancer Council SA's research and advocacy.

"Banning these ads in some of the key places they are seen regularly – especially by children – is a sensible step towards a healthier South Australia. This policy recognises that the cumulative exposure of unhealthy food and drink advertising influences a child's food preferences and intake and the associated pester power children use to persuade parents."



THE HON. CHRIS PICTON MP, FORMER SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Installing sun protection reminders at parks and playgrounds

While many South Australians associate skin damage with heat, UV can still reach very high levels on cool and cloudy days. In a first for Local Government, we partnered with the City of Onkaparinga to install SunSmart pavement stickers in 20 local playgrounds, parks and community centres as a reminder to families visiting the parks to check the UV when playing outside and Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide when the UV is 3 and above.

Driving progress through cancer research

Investing in the state's best cancer researchers

Every advancement in treatment and care has come as a direct result of investment in research. From prevention through to treatment, survivorship, public health and care, Cancer Council SA is committed to investing in research to improve outcomes for generations to come.

With support from the South Australian community, Cancer Council SA's Research Program has invested in the state's best researchers for many years, and this year awarded 11 South Australian cancer researchers with fellowships and grants to support their work across a range of research areas.

Research you've made possible

- Understanding cancer-related financial discrimination in Australia
- Creating a brighter dye to support pancreatic cancer surgery
- Preventing blood cancer in cancer survivors after treatment
- Improving cancer screening rates in diverse communities
- Developing new treatments for advanced prostate cancer
- Reducing inequities in cancer care for people living with cancer and other health conditions
- Investigating precision dietetics as a treatment for aggressive bile duct cancer
- Developing a targeted therapy for children with neuroblastoma

This year, Cancer Council SA has invested more than **$2.2 million** into the state's best and brightest cancer researchers working across a range of research areas and cancer types.

Thanks to continued investment in research, more people are surviving cancer than ever before, with cancer survival rates increasing by as much as **20%** since the 1980s.



Dr Nicole Dmochowska from Adelaide University is among the 11 researchers who received Cancer Council SA funding in 2025-26, for her work in developing a new, brighter dye to assist surgeons in removing pancreatic cancer.

Pancreatic cancer often comes with an extremely poor prognosis. It is difficult to diagnose early and normally does not show symptoms until it has spread to other organs or has grown enough to impact on pancreatic function.

Complete surgical removal offers the best chance of a cure for pancreatic cancer and current surgical dyes fade quickly, making it difficult for surgeons to see and remove the full tumour. Through her research, Dr Dmochowska aims to change that.

"This tumour specific dye will selectively accumulate within the tumour tissue, showing the surgeon where the tumour starts and where it finishes. The development of this dye would hopefully enable surgeons to remove more of the tumour, improving the prognosis of the patient but then also potentially quality of life post-surgery as well.

I'm very grateful to Cancer Council SA for this opportunity. Three years to focus and work on this project and give it the attention that it deserves is honestly an amazing opportunity."

DR NICOLE DMOCHOWSKA, 2026 CANCER COUNCIL SA RESEARCH FELLOW AT ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY

Informing action through behavioural research

Cancer impacts people in diverse and deeply personal ways and understanding these experiences is essential for driving meaningful change.

With around 33 new cases of cancer diagnosed in South Australia every day, research into health system reform and strategies to prevent cancer, as well as understanding people's unique needs when it comes to cancer care, is desperately needed.

Cancer Council SA has a team of six dedicated behavioural researchers who conduct research to help inform the development of our evidence-based programs, services and advocacy to better support all South Australians impacted by cancer.

Research you're making possible

- Co-designing cancer survivorship resources with and for people with intellectual disability
- Investigating best-practice approaches to measuring cognition during survivorship
- Investigating experiences of weight stigma in cancer care
- Examining how information sources influence vaping risk perceptions
- Enhancing an online psychosocial support program for people with cancer
- Trialling hat-wearing for secondary school students to improve sun protection among adolescents

This year, our Behavioural Research Team has been part of more than **42** research and evaluation projects to inform the development of our evidence-based programs, services and advocacy to better support all South Australians.



Peter Nelson Leukaemia Research Fellowship Fund

For nearly 50 years, the Peter Nelson Leukaemia Research Fellowship Fund has supported 11 talented researchers working towards a cure for leukaemia.

Cancer Council SA is proud to administer the Peter Nelson Leukaemia Research Fellowship Fund on behalf of the Hon. Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, former Governor of South Australia and Olympic athlete.

Dr Claire Homan is the current recipient of the fellowship conducting her work at Adelaide University. Her research focuses on understanding the link between genetics and leukaemia, in particular acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) to develop targeted therapies that not only better treat leukaemia but also prevent it from developing in the first place.

The central focus of Dr Homan's work has included the ongoing development of precision gene-editing to recreate the genetic changes which occur in a patient as they progress towards leukaemia. Now, after months of careful development, Dr Homan has begun applying these gene-editing tools to blood stem cells.

"Ultimately, this work will allow us to better understand how blood cancer develops and how we might intervene earlier. This progress would not be possible without the generosity of the supporters of the Peter Nelson Leukaemia Research Fellowship Fund."

DR CLAIRE HOMAN

This research, made possible through the Peter Nelson Leukaemia Research Fellowship Fund, is helping position South Australia at the forefront of leukaemia research and creating pathways for future treatments.

Real people. Real impact.

Behind every dollar raised this year is a person whose life has been touched by cancer. From prevention and research to the support services that walk alongside individuals and families through diagnosis and treatment. Without this remarkable community generosity, none of it would be possible.



David

In November 2024, when David was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia after a routine blood test, he was flown from his home in Broken Hill to Adelaide for urgent treatment. David's treatment, which included chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant, meant he was separated from his family, including nine-year-old son Lawson, for 15 months until he was declared cancer-free earlier this year. But thanks to the kindness of the South Australian community, David was able to stay at Greenhill Lodge.

> *"It is such a wonderful place. It's one less worry to not have to think about arranging accommodation, and all the other things [that come with being away from home] like food, transport to treatment, counselling. For everyone [staying at the Lodge], although they're all going through their own personal challenges, it still seems to be a positive and happy place. In terms of support, it's quite valuable."*



Rizgar

In Rizgar's community in Syria, cancer is rarely spoken about openly and people don't regularly visit the doctor, particularly when they're feeling fine. So, when Rizgar moved to Australia, although she knew about cancer screening, she had never had regular screening in Syria because it wasn't common there. She received cancer screening education in Arabic for the first time when Cancer Council SA visited Mount Gambier to provide education sessions to the local migrant community in partnership with the local Migrant Resource Centre.

> *"On arrival in Australia [from Syria] I had a Pap smear test [as part of the usual screening process for refugees] but I did not understand what it was for at the time. Now that I have attended the education session with cancer information delivered in my language, I understand what this test was for. Having an in-person interpreter at the session made it easy to understand, and when you understand, you feel more comfortable and confident to participate [in the tests]."*



Mark

When Mark was diagnosed with prostate cancer, he initially felt overwhelmed by all the information out there. That's when he reached out to Cancer Council SA and was connected with our Peer Connect Program where he was able to speak to a trained volunteer over the phone who had been through a similar cancer experience.

> *"I have found peer support to be the most helpful resource through this whole experience. I really appreciate being able to talk to someone who has been through something similar. Doctors and nurses have not been down that road themselves, so it's a different perspective from someone who has that lived experience."*



Yvette

Yvette experienced memory loss after going through extensive treatment for mantle cell lymphoma. She went from being on three voluntary Boards to suddenly relying on other people to help her every day. She lost her self-confidence and wasn't sure if she'd be able to go back to the voluntary work that she loved – which is when she reached out to Cancer Council SA's counsellors for support.

> *"The counselling service was just so critical to restoring self-confidence to get out of the house and get back out there. The counsellor was somebody that I could really associate with and trust. It was abundantly clear to me that I had a friend there that was ready at any time to support me. It's given me purpose back in life and helped me get my identity back."*



Sue

It has been more than a decade since Sue was first diagnosed with incurable kidney cancer. After finding out her cancer had spread to her lymph nodes, she never expected to make it to 60. But thanks to advances in treatment in that time, including her participation in research trials, she recently celebrated her 70th birthday alongside her friends and family.

> *"In the past 10 years, there's been so many advances. I can see the progress, I can see what the trials are doing. When I was first diagnosed, my oncologist told me if they'd diagnosed me five years earlier, they'd have told me to go home because there was nothing they could do. From five years before my diagnosis to where I am now, there's so much more they can do. The treatment is getting better. The only way we're going to get cures for different cancers is by having the money to support research."*

Life-changing support for regional South Australians

Advocacy success: Nation-leading accommodation subsidy for country South Australians

For people living in regional areas, a cancer diagnosis can bring significant additional challenges. Alongside the emotional and physical impacts of treatment, many face the logistical and financial weight of travelling long distances and securing accommodation.

Cancer Council SA, with support from our sector partners, has been advocating on behalf of regional South Australians for an increase to the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS) for many years to help lift some of the financial burden associated with travelling away from home for cancer treatment.

We were thrilled when the State Government increased the accommodation subsidy, from 1 July 2026, for regional South Australians who need to travel to access life-saving cancer treatment and specialist services.

This increase to PATS almost triples the accommodation subsidy available to regional people, from $44 to $110 per night for individuals and from $88 per night to $154 for those travelling with an approved escort. Furthermore, changes to the existing travel subsidy expanded eligibility to include people who travel a minimum of 300 kilometres per week to access oncology or renal services.

Together, these reforms position South Australia as the nation's leader when it comes to supporting accommodation and travel for people undergoing treatment. This change represents a substantial and long-awaited outcome for country South Australians, delivered as a direct result of sustained advocacy by Cancer Council SA and the broader sector. It reflects a meaningful reduction in the financial pressure faced by regional patients and their families at an already difficult time and stands as a significant achievement in our ongoing advocacy efforts.

This is a major win for country South Australians and for the services that exist to support them.





Building for the future

Growing demand for supportive accommodation across the state has highlighted an opportunity to better support people impacted by cancer and their families travelling for treatment in Adelaide's northern suburbs.

Cancer Council SA has initiated plans to create 53 more rooms of supported accommodation for regional South Australians.

This transformational project – a second Lodge accommodation facility to be built in the Northern Suburbs, close to Lyell McEwin Hospital – would support an additional 2,200 regional people with cancer and their families every year providing affordable, supportive accommodation closer to treatment and care.

Thanks to generous support from the South Australian community, Cancer Council SA has committed $20 million towards this project and is working hard to bring this vision to life.



Helping us be there for country people, like Anthony and Jenny, when they need a place to call home away from home

This increase to the PATS accommodation subsidy means we can sustainably provide our vital services for regional South Australians.

At Greenhill Lodge, we currently provide 120 rooms of supportive accommodation for people travelling to the city for treatment, alongside a range of wrap-around services including access to social work and counselling, complimentary transport to treatment and a subsidised meal service.

Anthony and his wife Jenny stayed with us at Greenhill Lodge for around four months while Anthony underwent intensive treatment for throat cancer.

> *"I rang up the information and support line on 13 11 20 because I was a bit distressed – I got a lovely and fabulous lady and she told me to go to Greenhill Lodge, which was a lifesaver for us.*
>
> *We went to the lodge, not thinking we'd be down there for very long, but when the doctors looked at it, they said it was worse than they thought. It wasn't just radiation – it would be a lot of radiation, in combination with heavy doses of chemo."*
>
> JENNY

The toll on Anthony's body was immediate and severe. His skin burned. His strength faded. And gradually, he lost his ability to speak. After four gruelling months of treatment, Anthony was in remission. But the journey didn't end there.



Just months after being given the all-clear, the cancer returned – this time more aggressive, more dangerous and requiring a major operation that would permanently change his life. A total laryngectomy, the complete removal of his voice box.

> *"Again, we stayed at the lodge and I had tremendous support from Kathryn, the social worker there. She was just wonderful. It was really distressing for both of us and she gave me strategies for how to speak to our family about what was going on and to help me cope with helping Anthony.*
>
> *It was a huge learning curve for both of us. But at least we had that base that could sort of be home, but not home. It was so helpful for us, we'll always be grateful for that."*
>
> JENNY

This year, we provided more than **34,200** nights of accommodation at our Greenhill Lodge for regional guests travelling to Adelaide for cancer treatment.

This year, more than **3,800** appointments with a social worker were provided for our Greenhill Lodge guests to assist them with emotional and practical support.

This year, our Transport to Treatment volunteers travelled approximately **34,000** kilometres transporting up to **42** people per day from Greenhill Lodge to metropolitan treatment centres.

This year, more than **11,500** meals were served to our guests in our dedicated dining room.

Supporting South Australians when they need it most

Navigating a cancer diagnosis can be an incredibly challenging experience and it can be hard to know where to turn. We are here for all South Australians with a range of services and trustworthy information through every stage of a cancer experience – from diagnosis to treatment and life after cancer.

Bringing cancer information and support to regional South Australia

It's important that all South Australians have access to trustworthy and evidence-based cancer information and support, no matter where they live. However, people living in regional and rural communities can often find it more difficult to access this support close to home.

For the first time, we brought our Healthy Living after Cancer Program to Victor Harbor and Murray Bridge, giving locals the tools to live well after cancer treatment through a combination of evidence-based workshops and coaching calls over 12 weeks.

> *"The whole program was excellent. Hearing everybody's stories and feeling like you're not alone and like it didn't matter where on your cancer journey you were. It was a very supportive, inclusive environment to be in."*



AMANDA, MURRAY BRIDGE HEALTHY LIVING AFTER CANCER PARTICIPANT

Providing financial relief to families impacted by cancer

Cancer and its treatment can present significant financial challenges. We have been providing financial assistance to help pay household bills for South Australians impacted by cancer since 2008. But with cost of living at an all-time high this year, we had more families reaching out to us for financial support than ever before.

This year, we expanded this service so that we can provide more financial relief during a challenging time, allowing individuals and their families to focus on their health and recovery.

> *"We couldn't work. We dedicated everything to our babies and scraped by on what little we had. We didn't necessarily need peer support or things like that. We needed help to pay our bills, to get groceries to feed our family. The person I spoke to [at Cancer Council SA] was wonderful. She helped us source the help we needed which let us better plan our finances. It was the hand up we needed to get out of survival mode and start planning for the future again."*



MONALISA, CANCER SURVIVOR

This year, we supported more than **380** South Australians impacted by cancer with **$110,000** in financial assistance to pay household bills and expenses to allow them to focus on their health and recovery.

This year, we delivered expert-led health education to more than **80** cancer survivors, providing more than **2,000** minutes of personalised support over the phone as part of our Healthy Living after Cancer Program.

This year, Cancer Council SA's qualified professionals made over **4,000** connections with South Australians on 13 11 20, providing over **58,000** minutes of cancer information and support on the phone.

This year, more than **132,000** printed resources were distributed to the community about cancer prevention, treatment and support.

This year, almost **1,000** counselling sessions were delivered to support individuals through their cancer experience.

This year, **45** Peer Connect volunteers provided more than **27,000** minutes of one-to-one peer support over the phone to South Australians impacted by cancer.

Working with First Nations people to improve outcomes for the community

As part of our commitment to inclusivity and improving cancer outcomes for First Nations people, we moved into the next stage of our reconciliation journey through the development of our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and continue to work with members of the First Nations community to reduce the rate and impact of cancer for all First Nations people in South Australia.

Our 'Pathways of Hope' to reconciliation



This artwork, titled 'Pathways of Hope', was produced by Pat Caruso for Cancer Council SA's new Innovate RAP to represent the next phase of our reconciliation journey.

At the centre of this artwork is the daffodil, represented by the large yellow circle. The daffodil is a symbol of hope, resilience and strength for people affected by cancer. It represents the heart of the work walking alongside people, families and communities through their cancer journey with care, trust and compassion.

Surrounding the daffodil are seven smaller circles, representing the key actions that guide this work across the state. Each circle reflects a commitment to improving equity and ensuring that everyone, particularly First Nations peoples and diverse communities, can access the support they need.

These seven circles represent the pathways of action:

- Listening to First Nations peoples and learning from their voices.
- Guidance from a First Nations Reference Group.
- Prevention and research to improve future outcomes.
- Support and counselling for individuals and families.
- Accommodation and transport to help people reach treatment.
- Financial assistance and social work support to reduce hardship.
- Partnerships and collaboration with organisations including First Nations Community Controlled Health Organisations, universities, government and Primary Health Networks.

The flowing lines connecting the circles represent the pathways people travel when seeking care and support. These pathways show that no service stands alone; they are part of a connected network designed to guide people through prevention, treatment and recovery.

The patterns radiating outward symbolise communities across the entire state, reflecting how support reaches people wherever they live. They also acknowledge those who travel from New South Wales, Victoria and the Northern Territory to access accommodation and care.

'Pathways of Hope' tells the story of connection, partnership, and trust. It reflects a commitment to listening, working together, and walking alongside communities to deliver care that is inclusive, respectful and supportive for all.

About the artist



Pat Caruso identifies as both a person of Eastern Arrernte background and a member of the Sultan family. He is the Founder and Director of advertising and business agency, We Create Print Deliver, a Board member of Operation Flinders Foundation and a highly regarded First Nations artist. Pat is also Cancer Council SA's Reconciliation Action Plan Committee Co-Chair and we are incredibly grateful for his guidance which continues to play an important role in our RAP journey.

Co-designing cancer programs and services with our Aboriginal Reference Group

It is important to us that when developing programs and services for First Nations peoples, they are community-led and co-designed to ensure they meet the needs of the community and are culturally safe.

Our Aboriginal Reference Group members, in collaboration with Cancer Council SA's Manager of Aboriginal Programs Malcolm Aston, are highly regarded within the community and really understand the impact of cancer, whether through their own personal experiences or having worked in the cancer space for many years.

Thank you to our Aboriginal Reference Group members for your continued guidance: Eunice Aston, Nicole Gollan, Courtney Hammond, Kim Morey, Major "Moogy" Sumner and Warwick Wallace.

Our work made possible thanks to support from the South Australian community

Every dollar raised by our generous community becomes real support for South Australians facing cancer — funding life-saving prevention programs that protect our community, cancer research that is working towards the next breakthrough and services that stand beside people when they need it most.

None of this vital work would be possible without the generosity, energy and commitment of everyone who supported us this year. No matter how you showed your support – whether through hosting a fundraising event, buying a bunch of daffodils, dressing up as a Marilyn to take a dip, or making a donation – every contribution makes a huge difference.



Daffodil Day

On Daffodil Day, more than 200 volunteers helped sell over 10,000 bunches of daffodils across South Australia —both through our dedicated stalls and by hand-delivering daffodils directly to the homes of those who purchased through our new online shop.

A further 400 South Australians braved icy waters throughout August as part of the Daffodil Day Dip, taking a cold plunge in honour of their own cancer experience or loved ones impacted by cancer.

Thanks to this incredible community support, we raised $327,000 for vital cancer research, giving hope to countless families impacted by a cancer diagnosis.

> *"I garnered a lot of support because of my diagnosis, with those close to me to getting on board and making this a pretty big event. As shocking as it is to the body to get in that cold water, it's such an amazing feeling afterwards. Once people start squealing, it just becomes contagious and everyone was just laughing and playing in the waves and having a great time in there, it was pure joy."*
>
> KIM, BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR AND DAFFODIL DAY DIP PARTICIPANT



Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

More than 1,600 South Australian hosts gathered their family, friends and workmates to host an Australia's Biggest Morning Tea in May or June and helped us raise a huge $1.4 million for Cancer Council SA's prevention, research and support services. Even some very cute four-legged friends got involved, as local business Yoga Paws got behind the cause by donating a portion of their ticket sales to the fundraiser.

> *"Yoga Paws was proud to support Australia's Biggest Morning Tea and the incredible work of Cancer Council South Australia. It was a great opportunity for our team to bring people together while contributing to a cause that affects so many Australians. As a business centred around wellbeing and community, this was a lovely occasion to be a part of. Yoga Paws was very grateful to be involved and play a small part in supporting the Cancer Council's wider mission."*
>
> NIC KITTELTY, SENIOR OPERATIONS MANAGER AT YOGA PAWS



Relay For Life

This year, more than 970 participants took to the track in four Relay For Life events across South Australia – walking or running around their local oval overnight, for 19 hours straight, and raising more than $325,000.



Marilyn Jetty Swim

The Marilyn Jetty Swim headed poolside for the first time this year, with more than 500 participants donning bathers and blonde wigs to jump into Marion Outdoor Pool for the event's very first poolside edition, raising more than $309,000 for South Australians impacted by cancer.

In another first, our Marilyn lookalikes also headed to regional South Australia. With support from our Naracoorte Branch, 110 South East Marilyns took the plunge into Naracoorte Swimming Lake, followed by 30 Riverland Marilyns jumping into the Hayden Stoeckel Swimming Pool in Berri.

> *"We wanted to do something a little bit out of the box, a little bit different. We've seen how the Brighton swim goes and thought it would be something really good for our community and the South East. We were very lucky with the support we received from the community, everyone wrapped their arms around us and helped make that dream come true. We can't wait to see what it looks like for the years ahead."*
>
> CARLY, SOUTH EAST MARILYN JETTY SWIM ORGANISER



Community fundraising

Andrew Day, alongside his son Nathan and nephew Tom, completed an amazing 3,000-kilometre bike ride from Perth to Adelaide to raise money for South Australians impacted by cancer. This journey took them 44 days and saw them raise more than $12,000, all in honour of Andrew's dad who passed away from prostate cancer.

> *"I'm amazed at the kindness of strangers and we've had all sorts of fantastic experiences. The people you meet are just great. No one's family has been untouched by cancer."*
>
> ANDREW, COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER



Cancer Council SA's Giving Day

The South Australian community got behind Cancer Council SA's Giving Day again on 19 February in a 12-hour marathon of generosity. Donations made by the community on the day were doubled by generous matched-giving partners to help us raise more than $286,000 for South Australian families impacted by cancer.

Thank you to our matched-giving partners: Christopher Bagley, Paul and Pam Barlow, The Sue Chase Foundation, Eliza Gruszecka, Bill and Joy Haberfield, Karen Hayes AM DSJ and Graeme Hayes, Millicent Cancer Support Group, Clinpath Pathology, JBWere, Nexphase Electrical, SCS Group and Southern Oncology Clinical Research Unit.

> *"The Millicent Cancer Support Group are incredibly thankful and appreciative of the support provided by Cancer Council SA and the wonderful Greenhill Lodge. It is truly an amazing facility that offers people from our rural community a comfortable and supportive place to stay during their cancer journey. Giving Day allows us to double our donation which means it goes twice as far and helps twice as many people, simply amazing."*
>
> THE MILLICENT CANCER SUPPORT GROUP TEAM

The Longest Day

More than 550 golfers turned out on the green to take on the ultimate golfing challenge in November, December and January – completing a massive 72 holes of golf in a single day for Cancer Council SA's prevention, research and support services. Thanks to the support of 27 host clubs, our intrepid golfers raised more than $290,000.

Passionate fundraiser, Craig Denning and his 22-year-old son Trent shut down The Vines Golf Club in Reynella for the day, inviting more than 60 participants, including some of their closest friends and family, to complete the challenge by their side.

Craig was diagnosed with incurable bowel cancer four years ago, at 48 years old, and sadly passed away in September 2026. Since his very first connection with a Cancer Council SA nurse on the day of his diagnosis, he was dedicated to raising funds and awareness for the services that supported him and his family.

The community came out in droves to support their cause, helping Craig and Trent raise more than $80,000 alone – contributing to more than a quarter of the total funds raised in the state.

> *"I've had such great support from Cancer Council SA from that first day. There was no way I could ever feel alone and the advancements they're making in research and treatments have given me more time with my family. It means so much to us and that's why we want to give back and raise awareness for all the incredible work they do."*
>
> CRAIG



Gifts in Wills

This year, Cancer Council SA was privileged to receive $4.1 million from generous South Australians who left a gift in their Will. We know this is a strong affirmation of the work we do, that after providing for their family, so many people are making a final gift because they believe in the value and impact of our prevention programs, world-class research and support services.



Jūratė's legacy gift to life-changing science

Jūratė Naujalis was born in Lithuania but moved with her family to Adelaide in 1949. She always had a passion for science and in 1977, she received a Fellowship in Australian Laboratory Science and later became Principal Scientist in charge of the Haemostasis Laboratory at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital. She had a long career with numerous publications in scientific journals.

It was Jūratė's wish that her estate was invested into life-changing science, specifically the research undertaken by Cancer Council SA. Her estate has gifted over $2 million to Cancer Council SA to enable us to invest in one early and one mid-career research fellowship each year for three years, funding a total of six researchers to continue their work towards reducing the rate and impact of cancer.

The first two South Australian researchers generously funded by Jūratė's estate commenced their fellowships in June 2026. Dr Raj Kumar Shrestha from Flinders University is developing a new drug for lethal prostate cancer. Dr Devendra Hiwase from the Central Adelaide Local Health Network is working to prevent life-threatening blood cancer in cancer survivors after chemotherapy.

Powerful gifts, like Jūratė's, ensure we can continue our work long into the future and provide life-changing support to future generations.



DR RAJ KUMAR SHRESTHA



DR DEVENDRA HIWASE

Thank you to our corporate partners and supporters

We are grateful to partner with incredible South Australian organisations that help to make our vital work possible. Thank you for your continued support.

Thank you to our corporate partners

Corporate partners

CMV GROUP FOUNDATION

GenesisCare

TONY & MARK'S Corporate with purpose

Capital Campaign partners

Adelaide Strikers

BHP

FREEMASONS South Australia and the Northern Territory Inc

HAIGH'S CHOCOLATES

People First Bank

EMPLOYEE FOUNDATION SA Power Networks Enerven

Event campaign supporter

RAA

Giving Day 2026 matched-giving partners

Christopher Bagley

Paul and Pam Barlow

The Sue Chase Foundation

Eliza Gruszecka

Bill and Joy Haberfield

Karen Hayes AM DSJ and Graeme Hayes

Millicent Cancer Support Group

CLINPATH PATHOLOGY

JBWere

NEXPHASE ELECTRICAL

SCS GROUP

Southern Oncology Clinical Research Unit

CMV Group Foundation

CMV Group Foundation and the CMV Group Staff Foundation generously donated a new bus for our Transport to Treatment service this year, ensuring our volunteer drivers can continue to transport our guests to their treatment every day. In addition to supporting this important service, fundraising efforts by their staff are matched by the organisation, doubling their impact for South Australians impacted by cancer.

> *"The CMV Group understands the impact cancer can have on individuals, families and communities. Through the CMV Group Foundation, we are proud to support Cancer Council SA's Transport to Treatment bus, which provides free, reliable transport for regional South Australians accessing cancer treatment in Adelaide. This vital service helps reduce financial and practical barriers, ensuring patients can focus on their cancer journey knowing they are supported. We have seen firsthand the incredible impact Cancer Council SA has on the lives of South Australians, and the CMV Group Foundation is proud to support this important service."*



MICHAEL, DAVID & PAUL CRAWFORD, CMV GROUP FOUNDATION

If your organisation is interested in partnering with Cancer Council SA, please reach out to our Partnerships Development Lead at philanthropy@cancersa.org.au.

GenesisCare

GenesisCare is one of Australia's largest cancer care service providers and has been an incredibly generous supporter of Cancer Council SA's Transport to Treatment service for six years. This year, GenesisCare committed to further supporting the vital program, offering a new sponsorship of $25,000 a year for the next three years.

> *"At GenesisCare, we see first-hand the impact that practical support can have on people undergoing cancer treatment. Cancer Council SA's Transport to Treatment program helps remove one less worry for regional patients travelling to appointments, and we're proud to have supported the service for many years. It's a partnership that reflects our shared commitment to improving the experience of people affected by cancer. Beyond this program, our teams love to get behind initiatives such as Daffodil Day and Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, and we are honoured to play a small part in helping Cancer Council SA continue its incredible work across South Australia."*



DUY TRAN, GENERAL MANAGER AT GENESISCARE SA

Tony & Mark's

For over 45 years, Tony & Mark's has provided South Australians with fresh produce, gourmet treats, speciality grocery items and beautiful flower arrangements. Through their Corporate with Purpose Program, Tony & Mark's is partnering with Cancer Council SA for the next two years to deliver a tailored service, providing nutritious food packs for our Greenhill Lodge guests and has created beautiful yellow bouquets which are on sale online and from its retail outlets, with $10 from every bouquet donated to Cancer Council SA.

> *"At Tony & Mark's, we believe business should make a difference. Supporting Cancer Council SA is a partnership I'm incredibly proud to be part of, both personally and professionally. Knowing our work helps bring hope, care and support to South Australians affected by cancer reminds me that the greatest impact we can make is through purpose and community."*



PAULINA FERNANDEZ, HEAD OF SALES & PARTNERSHIPS AT TONY & MARK'S



Thank you to our research partners

We are proud to work with leading research partners in South Australia to reduce the rate and impact of cancer. Our support directly benefits some of the state's best and brightest cancer researchers currently conducting their work at Flinders University, Adelaide University, Central Adelaide Local Health Network and SAHMRI (South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute).

> *"Cancer Council SA's investment in cancer research provides vital support for Adelaide University researchers to advance their work. In the past year, six of our researchers have received funding through Cancer Council SA's research programs. We are very grateful for this investment, which enables important discoveries to move closer to meaningful outcomes for patients and the community."*



PROFESSOR DAVID WAUGH, DEAN RESEARCH, HEALTH AT ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY

Thank you to our Government partners

Preventive Health SA

We continued our partnership with Preventive Health SA this year to deliver impactful campaigns and programs that help South Australians reduce their cancer risk and detect cancer early.

Together, this year, we delivered on key public health initiatives by introducing new cancer prevention campaigns to South Australia with the *If You Could See UV* sun protection campaign targeting people aged 18-35 years and the *Bowel Cancer Waits For No One* bowel cancer screening campaign – both aimed at reducing the rate and impact of cancer across the state.

As part of our joint efforts, we awarded up to a combined $250,000 in grant funding to schools and early childhood centres across South Australia through our Shade Grants initiative. Eight grants were awarded to help the successful applicants build shaded play areas to protect children and students from harmful UV radiation.

We also worked together to engage regional and rural football clubs in South Australia to help raise awareness of bowel cancer screening in their communities as part of our *Lift Your Game* initiative, with 20 clubs signing up to start important conversations about bowel cancer screening in their communities to be eligible to receive a $20,000 grant for their club.

Commission on Excellence and Innovation in Health

Cancer Council SA has proudly partnered with the Commission on Excellence and Innovation in Health to introduce a program of preventive health initiatives as part of the newly established SA Comprehensive Cancer Network (SACCaN), investing $2 million into prevention over three years (2026-2029).

This critical funding will support us to conduct work across four key areas of cancer prevention:

- Building community awareness and education of cancer prevention and screening with a focus on priority groups and regions with low screening rates.
- Supporting general practice engagement with the National Cancer Screening Register to improve patient referrals to breast, bowel, cervical and lung screening programs.
- Training and educating health professionals to strengthen their knowledge and skills in cancer prevention, screening and early detection.
- Identifying cost-effective and evidence-based approaches to increase participation in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program in South Australia.

Department for Education of South Australia

Cancer Council SA continues to partner with the Department for Education to support sun protection within the education sector with the Department strengthening its access to Cancer Council SA's SunSmart training.

Around 38,000 staff, including corporate roles, are supported to complete the *Ultraviolet radiation and skin cancer training module* as part of their employment, empowering education leaders and teachers to take a proactive role in promoting sun safety measures.

BreastScreen SA and Country SA PHN (Primary Health Network)

With grant funding from Country SA PHN through the Australian Government's PHN program, Cancer Council SA partnered with BreastScreen SA and local Migrant Resource Centres in Whyalla and Mount Gambier to continue our work promoting cancer screening among regional multicultural communities.

Following successful cancer screening education sessions held in Whyalla in 2024-25, our staff headed to the Limestone Coast to deliver these sessions to local migrant communities in Mount Gambier. We also worked directly with four medical clinics in Whyalla and three in Mount Gambier to support local GPs to invite patients who were due or overdue for a cervical screening test to book an appointment, with 365 women and people with a cervix now up to date on their cervical screening as a result.

South Australian Department of the Premier and Cabinet

As part of our commitment to diversity and inclusion, we are proud to be part of the State Government's Multicultural Ambassador Program as a Foundation Member, promoting cultural awareness and understanding both within our organisation and through our work in prevention and support across the state. Through our involvement in the program, we continue to support other organisations by sharing our best practices and insights.

Our volunteers making our vital work possible



This year, more than **539** volunteers generously donated their time, knowledge and expertise.

This year, our volunteers dedicated almost **15,500** hours to supporting South Australians impacted by cancer, providing a cost saving of almost **$465,000** so we can invest more into cancer prevention, research and support services.

Every day, people from all walks of life donate their time, knowledge and energy to help Cancer Council SA support the more than 12,000 South Australians impacted by cancer every year. Simply put, we can't do what we do without our volunteers.

From driving our guests to their treatment and making them feel at home here at Greenhill Lodge to helping out with our events, helping us thank our generous donors, providing peer support over the phone, and ensuring people can access cancer information at their hospital or treatment centre—it takes many hands to take on cancer and volunteers make our vital work possible.

The impact our volunteers make every day

- Driving our Greenhill Lodge guests to treatment
- Helping our guests navigate our Greenhill Lodge accommodation
- Helping us prepare for fundraising events
- Providing cancer information and support at hospitals
- Being the face and voice of Cancer Council SA in regional South Australia
- Providing peer support for those going through cancer treatment over the phone
- Selling daffodils to raise funds for cancer research
- Organising Relay For Life events in their local community
- Providing sunscreen and sun protection information at community events
- Speaking on behalf of Cancer Council SA to raise awareness of our work at fundraising and community events
- Supporting us to deliver our vital prevention, research and support programs and services through ongoing administrative, finance, warehouse and project support

Corporate volunteering

We were honoured to have some amazing local businesses encourage their staff to volunteer their time to help us run our major fundraising events.

Thank you to Acorn Insurance, Allianz, AppleCare, Australian Gas Infrastructure Group, Bridgestone, EGM Partners, JBWere, Johnson & Johnson MedTech, Journey Beyond, Lift Tread, People First Bank, Plenti, PwC Australia, RAA, SA Power Networks Employee Foundation, SCS Group, Serco, Team Global Express, Toyota Finance, VUCA and Westpac for your support this year.

This year, we had **21** organisations donate **580** hours of staff support through corporate volunteering.

Recognising our amazing volunteers

Each year, during National Volunteer Week we present our Volunteer Acts of Service Award inspired by Fran Tann, who is remembered fondly by the staff and volunteers of Cancer Council SA for her 14 years of service as an ambassador and volunteer.



Mark Jenkin – 2026 Acts of Service Award recipient

This year we were pleased to present the 2026 Volunteer Acts of Service Award to Mark Jenkin for generously donating his time to us for more than eight years.

Mark provides invaluable support across many areas of Cancer Council SA including making our guests feel welcome at Greenhill Lodge, restocking our resources at hospitals, helping out at events, representing Cancer Council SA as an ambassador, and providing telephone peer support to those going through cancer treatment.

He brings humour, energy and kindness to all his interactions and his listening ear brings comfort and joy to our guests. We are so lucky to have volunteers like Mark here at Cancer Council SA.

We'd also like to recognise our 2026 nominees who have all made a significant impact to South Australians impacted by cancer:

- Anja Dewar, Transport to Treatment driver
- Jacky Gensin, Greenhill Lodge concierge
- Jean Germano, Peer Connect volunteer
- John Glynn, Transport to Treatment driver
- Gill Golding, Cancer Information Centre volunteer
- Jane Greenslade, Transport to Treatment driver
- Ralph Reivytis, Transport to Treatment driver
- Paul Saffi, Ambassador

Our dedicated staff helping us deliver our purpose

Our people and our organisational values of care, integrity and excellence are at the heart of everything we do. Thank you to the more than 100 employees who work hard every day to help us deliver our purpose. Your dedication, compassion and commitment are the driving force behind our work to reduce the rate and impact of cancer for all South Australians.

Providing real-world experience to the next generation

We are passionate about creating opportunities to foster the next generation of public health professionals and cancer researchers, taking on 18 student placements from local universities in the past year across our Prevention and Research teams.

We also awarded two Summer Research Scholarships to outstanding students who are nearing the completion of their undergraduate university degree. The purpose of the scholarships is to help develop research skills and encourage further study or work in research.

> *"I really valued my Summer Research Scholarship at Cancer Council SA. Coming in with minimal research experience and stepping into an unfamiliar work environment, I definitely felt a bit daunted at first. I was relieved to find myself in an organisation with a welcoming and friendly culture, which made it easier to settle in. Over the placement, the behavioural research team taught me so much about research processes and report writing, and I even had the chance to complete my first real-world research report. I also found it inspiring to see firsthand how research contributes to improving outcomes for people affected by cancer. The experience strengthened my confidence and left me feeling motivated about pursuing research further."*
>
> CELIA ELLKS, 2025 CANCER COUNCIL SA SUMMER RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT

Celebrating staff service milestones

Behind every milestone in this report are staff who have stood by Cancer Council SA for years – sometimes decades. We're proud to celebrate our staff who have reached service milestones this year and the lasting impact of their dedication.

5 years

- Lucy Ayre, General Manager Finance and Governance
- Tania Ellison, Accommodation Receptionist
- Kylie Gepp, Community Information Officer
- Cathy Hubbard, Reception Team Leader
- Leanne Kelly, CRM Systems & Customer Experience Manager
- Olivia Lukowska, Prevention Coordinator (Tackling Tobacco)
- Carol Moore, Senior Manager Accommodation - Practical Services
- Jen Rose, Wellbeing Programs Lead

20 years

- Brett Coonan, Warehouse Supervisor

> *"When I look back on my 20 years at Cancer Council SA, I feel incredibly grateful for the journey. There have been many challenges, changes and special moments over the years, but what has always remained is the sense that the work we do truly matters. I am proud to have played my part in supporting Cancer Council SA and helping to make a difference to people affected by cancer. I have learnt so much, grown both personally and professionally, and have so many people to thank for making these 20 years such a rewarding and memorable part of my life."*



BRETT COONAN, WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR AT CANCER COUNCIL SA

Thank you to our Board

Cancer Council SA is privileged to have a volunteer Board comprising a highly committed and experienced cohort of Directors from diverse backgrounds and lived experience.

On behalf of every South Australian impacted by cancer, thank you for your dedication and commitment to working to reduce the rate and impact of cancer for all South Australians.



The Hon. Karlene Maywald
Board Chair



Mr Nick Ashley
Interim Deputy Chair



Ms Karen Hayes
Director



Dr Ganessan Kichenadasse
Director



Associate Professor Amy McLennan
Director



Mr Jason Russo
Director



Ms Bianca Stawiarski
Director



Mr David Swan
Director

We would also like to recognise the following outgoing Board Members who volunteered their time last year:

Professor Fran Baum AO
Director – resigned 30 October 2025

Ms Bronwyn Dodd
Director – resigned 30 October 2025

Ms Rosey Batt
Deputy Chair – resigned 2 April 2026

Thank you to our independent committee members who generously provide their expertise to support the Board in making important decisions that help us work towards our purpose.

Mr Andrew Fletcher
Building Oversight Committee member

Ms Eliza Gruszecka
Fundraising and Marketing Committee member

Professor Susan Hillier
Cancer Research Committee member

Professor Chris Karapetis
Cancer Research Committee member

Professor Guy Maddern
Cancer Research Committee member

We would also like to recognise Cancer Council SA's Executive team, who are committed to supporting every South Australian impacted by cancer through leading our prevention, research and support programs.

Kerry Rowlands
Chief Executive

Lucy Ayre
General Manager Finance and Governance

Dr Peter Diamond
General Manager Mission

Toby Evans
General Manager Digital

Pauline John
General Manager People, Safety and Culture

Paul Morton
General Manager Fundraising and Engagement

Thank you to Di Edlington for acting in the role of General Manager People, Safety and Culture during this period. Di remains a valued member of Cancer Council SA's People, Safety and Culture team as Senior P&C Business Partner.

Cancer Council SA

We're working to reduce the rate and impact of cancer for all South Australians.

Get in touch with us

For general information and enquiries:

- Call 08 8291 4111
- Email cc@cancersa.org.au

Confidential cancer information and support

For confidential information and support about cancer from qualified professionals, Monday to Friday, 9.00 am until 5.00 pm:

- Call Cancer Connect on 13 11 20
- Email askanurse@cancersa.org.au

Interpreting service available 131 450.

Greenhill Lodge accommodation

To enquire about our Greenhill Lodge accommodation for people travelling to Adelaide for cancer treatment located at 202 Greenhill Road, Eastwood:

- Call 08 8291 4200
- Email stay@cancersa.org.au

Cancer Council South Australia
ABN: 29 053 873 822